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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

WADA ET AL.

Atty. Ref.: 1035-641; Confirmation No. 5465

Appl. No. 10/581,603

TC/A.U. 3761

Filed: June 5, 2006

Examiner: C.L. Anderson

For: WATER-ABSORBING AGENT, MANUFACTURE METHOD THEREOF, AND  
ABSORBENT AND ABSORBENT ARTICLE MADE THEREFROM

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April 2, 2009

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE**

This is in response to the Office Action, dated March 5, 2009, relating to the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to an absorbent, classified in Class 604, subclass 367.
- II. Claims 10-14, drawn to a method of making an absorbent, classified in Class 526, subclass 317.1.

For further prosecution in the present application, Applicant hereby elects Claims 1-9 in Group I.